New Jersey Institute of Technology

VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Program

Prelude Video

Moderator
Fadi P. Deek ’85, ’86, ’97
Provost and Senior Executive Vice President

National Anthem

Welcome First-Year Students

State of the University Address
Joel Stuart Bloom
President

Keynote Address
Gabrielle Rejouis ’15
Senior Policy Manager
for Media, Culture, and Economic Justice
Color of Change

Recognition of Faculty Awards

Alumni Speaker
Ralph Jiminez ’02
President
The Alumni Association of NJIT

Alma Mater
Award Recipients

Presidential Leadership Awards
Ayushi Sangoi (Undergraduate)
Biomedical Engineering and Computer Engineering, Newark College of Engineering

William Ho (Graduate)
Chemical Engineering, Newark College of Engineering

Excellence in Research Awards
Qiang Tang
Computer Science, Ying Wu College of Computing

Xiaoyang Xu
Chemical and Materials Engineering, Newark College of Engineering

Maurie Cohen
Humanities, College of Science and Liberal Arts

Wenda Cao
Physics, College of Science and Liberal Arts

Haisu Zhang
Martin Tuchman School of Management

Gabrielle Esperdy
Hillier College of Architecture and Design

Overseers Excellence in Research Prize and Medal
Namas Chandra
Biomedical Engineering

Lou Kondic
Mathematical Sciences

Overseers Excellence in Service Award
Michael Ehrlich
Martin Tuchman School of Management

Blake Haggerty, Nicole Bosca,
Cassandra Sardo, and Amal Shah
Office of Digital Learning

Master Teachers
Cesar Bandera
Martin Tuchman School of Management

Ecevit Bilgili
Chemicals and Materials Engineering

Stephen Pemberton
Federated History

Constance A. Murray Diversity Award
James Geller
Computer Science
Newly Promoted/Tenured Faculty

Promotion to Distinguished Professor
Treena Arinzeh
Biomedical Engineering

Promotion to Professor
Shahriar Afkhami
Mathematical Sciences

Bruce Bukiet
Mathematical Sciences

Gabrielle Esperdy
Hillier College of Architecture and Design

Julian Neamtiu
Computer Science

Xianqin Wang
Chemical and Materials Engineering

Zhipeng Yan
Martin Tuchman School of Management

Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure
Sagnik Basuray
Chemical and Materials Engineering

Brittany Hamfeldt
Mathematical Sciences

J. Britt Holbrook
Humanities

Dong-Kyun Ko
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Xuan Liu
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Hieu Pham Trung Nguyen
Electrical and Computer Engineering

David Shirokoff
Mathematical Sciences

Promotion to Associate Professor
Mengyan Li
Chemistry and Environmental Science

Promotion to Senior University Lecturer
John Egan
Humanities

Narendra Khichi
Humanities

Stephanie Santos
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Jaskirat Sodhi
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Louis Wells
Humanities

Roman Voronov
Chemical and Materials Engineering

Donghee Yvette Wohn
Informatics

Xiaoyang Xu
Chemical and Materials Engineering

Tenure
Esra Buyuktahtakin-Toy
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Xiaobo Li
Biomedical Engineering

Mengyan Li
Chemistry and Environmental Science

Daphne Soares
Biological Sciences

Xiaoyang Xu
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Xiaoyang Xu
Chemical and Materials Engineering
Gabrielle Rejouis graduated from NJIT in 2015 with her B.A. in History. She was an Albert Dorman Honors Scholar, a 2015 College of Science and Liberal Arts Outstanding Undergraduate Student award recipient, and a 2019 Rising Star Alumna award recipient. Gabrielle received her J.D. from Georgetown Law with a Certificate in Refugee and Humanitarian Emergencies in 2018. After law school, she worked at the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law, where she advocated for civil rights protections in tech policy and worker privacy protections. Gabrielle currently works at Color of Change as a Senior Policy Manager on the Media, Culture, and Economic Justice team. She develops campaigns to challenge anticompetitive practices and to ensure effective regulation of the tech industry.
Convocation 2020 Award Recipients

Presidential Leadership Awards

Ayushi Sangoi ’20 (Undergraduate)
Computer Engineering

The undergraduate Presidential Leadership Award is being awarded to a student who has earned the admiration of students and staff alike. Sangoi’s leadership is fueled by passion and is centered around service, education and advocacy. In Alpha Phi Omega, the National Co-ed Service Fraternity, she increased fundraising by 600% within one semester, which funded local service initiatives, such as STEM outreach projects in Kearny and the creation of care packages for the homeless in Newark. Through Girl Up, which is a United Nations-affiliated organization focusing on empowering women around the globe, Sangoi has served in five leadership roles, including President, and partnered an event with Johnson & Johnson to help send girls to school in Guatemala. With the Honors College, she hosted three Honors Colloquia focusing on women in the refugee crisis, inspirational women using social media for revolutions, and the intersection of sustainability and feminine hygiene products. Sangoi has received various academic awards, and acknowledgement for her research and labs, and has worked as a tutor through The Learning Center and the Educational Opportunity Program. Sangoi is described as rare because of her strong, dedicated and passionate leadership paired with her humility, teamwork, service and interest in the common good. It is with great pleasure that we present the 2020 Undergraduate Presidential Leadership Award to Ayushi Sangoi.

William Ho ’23 (Graduate)
Chemical Engineering

The graduate Presidential Leadership Award is being awarded to a student described as bringing energy, enthusiasm and commitment to all activities with the desire to help others and improve the quality of life for many. Ho founded and serves as President of the Science and Politics Society, a student organization recognized by the Graduate Student Association. Ho established the Science and Politics Society to bring awareness of global politics and policy to STEM students. The organization is creating a network of STEM-friendly politicians with whom students can connect and volunteer. One goal is to help students think more broadly about the world and their role as engineers and scientists, and understand how they can be involved in politics to make a difference. The club is always looking to recruit undergraduates as members for their help, too. Ho is heavily invested in his research at Xu Lab of Nanomedicine and Biomaterials. If his research is successful, it could yield a breakthrough in the treatment of brain cancer and other afflictions such as Alzheimer’s and stroke. His graduate work also allows him to mentor both undergraduate and high school students about work done in the lab. Ho says it is a privilege to help young minds develop and understand the intricacies of our research, which can lead to medical breakthroughs. He has achieved a 3.813 GPA in his Ph.D. studies and has co-authored papers. Ho is also the winner of the 2020 NJIT Technology Innovation Translation and Acceleration $50,000 Seed Grant. He says NJIT has shaped his personal development in a profound way and attributes many of NJIT’s students and professionals to his fondness for NJIT. It is with great pleasure to present the 2020 Graduate Presidential Leadership Award to William Ho.
Namas Chandra
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Namas Chandra, a distinguished professor of biomedical engineering who explores the intersection of mechanics and biology, is a pioneer in the field of blast-induced brain injuries and associated neurotraumas, as well as methods to protect against them.

Chandra focuses on fundamental questions about these potentially life-changing traumas, such as whether soldiers exposed to multiple blasts sustain brain injuries and become susceptible down the road to other neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. He has recently demonstrated conclusively, for the first time, that pure shock waves can cause concussions and that repeated exposures to them do pose serious risk factors for these diseases.

In other discoveries, he has determined that brain injuries caused by blasts are diffuse, setting them apart from the more localized traumas sustained in car accidents, and may compromise the organ’s protective shield, the blood-brain barrier, and induce neuroinflammation.

Chandra also examines current protective measures — helmets, body armor, vehicles and combat care — to assess their ability to prevent brain injuries. He has shown, for example, that certain helmets without tight padding can increase a soldier’s vulnerability from a newly identified effect he terms “shock focusing.” He is examining biomechanical and biochemical mechanisms to promote brain safety, as well as innovative diagnostic methods and therapies to advance treatment. He is currently exploring, for example, the use of a peptide hormone on blast-induced hearing loss.

In his Center for Injury Bio-Mechanics, Materials and Medicine, which is humming with undergraduate and graduate student researchers, Chandra conducts many of his experiments in a laboratory-scale shock tube that can exactly simulate blasts in the field set off by hand-held grenades, pipe and truck bombs. His patented equipment, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, is considered a gold-standard testing device and has been replicated at the U.S. Army Proving Grounds in Aberdeen to test future products for soldiers.

With neurobiologist Farzan Nadim, Chandra co-founded NJIT’s Institute for Brain and Neuroscience Research to advance a multipronged approach toward understanding neural circuits and their disruption. While conducting fundamental research, IBNR brain injury specialists work closely with clinicians in the region and throughout the country on a variety of therapies, including neurorehabilitation.

Over the last seven years since joining NJIT, Chandra has been awarded nearly $7 million in external research funding. He has published more than 233 articles in refereed publications, including 122 in archival journals.

In 1997, Chandra was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering for his contribution to composite mechanics. Nearly a decade later, he was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering for his work on the biomechanics of blast-induced brain injury and his insights into improved protections and therapies.
Lou Kondic
Mathematical Sciences

Lou Kondic, a distinguished professor of applied mathematics, is an expert in complex fluid dynamics whose pioneering work in thin films, composed of materials ranging from liquid crystals to ferromagnetic fluids to liquid metals, is key to innovations in numerous technology-enhanced products, such as solar panels, industrial coatings and liquid crystal displays.

Kondic recently devised a new computational model, for example, that is capable of tracking how extreme heat impacts the evolution of thin metal films on thermally conductive solid substrates such as the silicon used in photovoltaic panels. His lab’s discovery of major thermal and fluid dynamic factors that drive the evolution of metal films, including alloys involving more than one metal, is designed to improve their radiation-absorbing properties. By directing the way nanoparticles arrange themselves on top of silicon, he aims to make panels both more efficient and cost-effective.

Also an expert in granular flows, Kondic’s interdisciplinary research into the dynamics of particulate systems in a range of conditions — vibrated, sheared and subject to impact — has produced novel insights with a potentially transformative impact on the study of natural phenomena such as earthquakes, landslides and meteor impacts, as well as industrial processes. They include the manufacture, handling, packaging and transport of granular products, ranging from dry powders to dense suspensions.

Kondic has recently collaborated with NJIT’s Boris Khusid, a professor of chemical and materials engineering, and researchers from NASA, New York University and Streamline Automation on space-bound studies at the International Space Station. Their experiments explore the fundamental science of colloids — microscopic “building blocks” particles for materials on Earth that are central to the composition of everything from milk and tea to household electronics and 3D printing technology.

His work has been supported by more than two dozen grants from diverse agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, the Army Research Office, NASA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and resulted in more than one hundred well-cited papers in top journals such as Physical Review Letters, Europhysics Letters, Nanoletters, Journal of Fluid Mechanics, Physics of Fluids and the prestigious Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics.

Kondic has garnered numerous important honors and recognitions for his work. Named a Fulbright Fellow in 2006 to study thin film science in Argentina, he went on to receive the College of Science and Liberal Arts Excellence in Research Award in 2013 and the Leloir Award for International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation from the Argentine Ministry of Science and Technology in 2017. That same year, he was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society for advancing “understanding of complex fluid dynamics, from thin films to granular flows.”
Overseers Excellence in Service Award

Michael Ehrlich  
*Martin Tuchman School of Management*

**Blake Haggerty, Nicole Bosca, Cassandra Sardo and Amal Shah**  
*Office of Digital Learning*

The Board of Overseers has established awards that acknowledge a long record of extraordinary service to the university and the community. This honor is presented in recognition of exceptional contributions that have lasting impact on the university and enhance the mission of NJIT. Two awards were made for 2020:

For his multifaceted contributions to the university, the NJIT Board of Overseers is pleased to recognize Michael Ehrlich, Associate Professor of Finance, Martin Tuchman School of Management.

Also for their contributions to the university, the NJIT Board of Overseers is pleased to recognize The Office of Digital Learning, namely, Blake Haggerty, Nicole Bosca, Cassandra Sardo and Amal Shah, for their heroic efforts on behalf of our faculty and students during this difficult time.
Dr. Constance A. Murray, who served as NJIT’s dean of student services from 1978 until her death in 1994, was a dedicated educator and humanitarian who devoted her life to enhancing opportunities for all people, especially minorities and women. The award named in her memory is presented to individuals or groups within NJIT who have compiled a significant and sustained record of achievement in fostering diversity within the university community. This year’s winner, Dr. James Geller, a professor in the Department of Computer Science (CS) and Associate Dean for Research in Ying Wu College of Computing (YWCC), more than meets these criteria, going far beyond commitment to equality required of each person at NJIT.

During his tenure as CS Department Chair, Dr. Geller initiated a plan to increase the number of women students in YWCC and to create a more welcoming and supportive environment. He obtained grant funding from “BRAID initiative,” a national project that works to increase the percentage of women and students of color majoring in computer science. Dr. Geller has used this funding to take groups of female undergraduate and graduate students to major career networking events for women such as the annual Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC), the Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing and the National Conference on Woman and Information Technology (NCWIT). The GHC, which draws over 20,000 participants each year, 90% of them women not only provides students with opportunities to interview for internships and jobs but also allows them to interact with an exciting lineup of successful women role models in industry and academia. NJIT is now a GHC sponsor, thanks in large measure to Dr. Geller’s efforts, enhancing the university’s access to graduating undergraduate students with potential interest in a Ph.D. program and graduating Ph.D. students who are looking for academic positions.

At the local level, Dr. Geller has created an outreach program in which successful NJIT women students go into urban high schools to act as role models and encourage the girls to consider majoring in computer-related fields. Many of these student role models are the leaders of NJIT’s dedicated clubs for women in computing — clubs that Dr. Geller helped to establish — including the undergraduate Women in Computing Society (WiCS), the Graduate Women in Computing Society (G-WiCS) and a chapter of the ACM-W, the female student branch of ACM, the largest organization worldwide of computing professionals (the Association for Computing Machinery). Dr. Geller arranges activities for these clubs — for example, organizing visits to Facebook and Google offices in New York City and bringing in well-known female guest speakers.

In addition to his work with women students, Dr. Geller has also worked with YWCC faculty on creating a more supportive climate—e.g. bringing in speakers to discuss “how to run a gender-neutral classroom” and making such diversity training a regular part of the YWCC onboarding process for new faculty. More recently, Dr. Geller helped to organize a new diversity training program for all Computer Science Department TAs that uses a gamification approach to introduce concepts such as stereotype threat, implicit bias and microaggression, as well as an understanding of gender fluidity and individual pronoun choices. This diversity training was the first initiative of a new CS Department Diversity Committee which Dr. Geller created.

In all these ways and many more, Dr. James Geller has played a pioneering role in fostering diversity in Ying Wu College of Computing at NJIT, demonstrating the sustained record of commitment to fairness and equality which the Murray Diversity Award was created to recognize.
**Newark College of Engineering**

Newark College of Engineering has as its ensign a chess rook, an ancient symbol associated with engineering and problem-solving as well as an early device in heraldry. It is shown on a field of academic orange with the year 1919, as the date when degrees were first authorized for the college.

*Albert Dorman Honors College*
Ashwin Penumetch
Jason Perez
Joshua Perez
Ethan Peterson
George Petrillo
Joseph Phan
Megan Polozzo
Maryrose Polperio
Patrick Polus
Luke Pothen
Noam Preil
Michael Ptak
Areej Qamar *
Nicholas Quitoni
Ariella Quijzhi
Mahdhi Rab
Nafisa Rahman
Shah Rahman
Isha Rai *
Vibhat Rai
Daren Rakowski
Juan Ramirez
Kelly Ramirez
Anna Ramos
Matthew Zonji Ramos
Siddharth Rana
Tanay Rana
Vivek Rana
Gabriel Rapoport
Mohammad Raza
Esau Razac
Corbin Reifschneider
Saul Revollo
Sebastian Reyes
Alexander Reynaga
Bahilma Ricardo
William Richards
Eliyahu Richter
Jeffrey Riffel
Pamela Rijo Reyes
Arnoldo Rivera
Emily Rivera
Xavier Rivera
Kevin Rivero
Julio Robles
Benjamin Rotail
Larry Rojas Perez

Nolan Rollison
David Romero
Darryl Rose
Anubhab Roy *
Lucas Ruczynski
Brandon Ruffini
Matthew Ruffolo
Cesar Ruiz
Justin Ruiz
Michael Ruzzi
Dylan Ryan
Kirlus Saad
Mahmoud Saad
Bishoy Saber
Yusuf Sahin
Fady Said
Levi Salas
Erik Saldana
Farah Saleh
Yousif Saleh
Karl Sales
Tiffany Salverreddy
Abida Samiha *
Kevin Samraj *
Carlos Sanchez
Daniel Santos
Dorian Santos
Daniel Sarzynski
Emad Sawaged
Joseph Schaeder
Neven Scherrer
Anneliese Schmidt *
Mark Schultheis
Paul Sclafani
Cooper Seise
Marvin Shafik
Darshiben Shah
Jasheel Shah
Ruchi Shah *
Shayan Shahid
Amr Shaline
Zayd Shaikh *
Farhan Shairyy
Mohammad Shaker
Tyler Shaughnessy
Ronit Sheth
Hong Zheng Shi
Selma Shifa

Haresh Shiwcharan *
Ivan Siguenia
Marcello Silva
Theodore Sims
Ajayvir Singh
Harshveer Singh
Alexander Sloan
Brenden Smith
Nikola Sokiran
David Solano
Henry Solano
Enis Sonnezer
Danial Spall
David Sprague
Joseph Stately
Evangelos Stathopoulos
Zachary Stves
Hwa-Lyang Sugihara *
John Sumba-Sumba
Nicole Szponar
Joshua Szymanski
Ummehani Telukdar
Brian Tanculski
Allyson Tarifa
Angel Teixeira Da Silva
Thiago Teixeira
Amil Thaha
Varsha Thampi *
Charles Thelusma
Stephen Timoldi
Vincent Torio
Albert Torres-Rivas
Harrison Tracy
Jessica Trofinoff
Brandon Tulenko
Jordan Tulvis

Christopher Urena
Tyler Vagueiro
Ronald Valencia
Francisco Vazquez
Gilberto Vega
Jonathan Ventura
Juliana Villamor
Adithya Vinod *
Giovanni Visbal
Dat Vo
Sebastian Vogel
Joey Vukdedaj
Rebecca Warga
Fumiyoishi Washino
Dylan Wieczerzak
Antonio Wilkinson-Cheeks
Paul Wojtowicz
Alex Wolosiuk
Kai Wong
Kevin Wong
Alexander Wu
Christopher Yan
Ivan Yeddu
Marcus Yoif
Andrew Youssef
Manuel Yunes
Abanoub Zaher
Moataz Zayed
Paula Zugasti
J. ROBERT AND BARBARA A. HILLIER COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Hillier College of Architecture and Design carries as its symbol a representational column head, the classic denotation of the discipline which is used throughout the college. It is shown on a field of blue violet, the academic color, and bears the year designation of 1973.

Joaquin Acuna
Omar Ahmed
William Aldana
Kanwal Alvi
Arben Ardolic
Isaiah Bazan
Angelina Bocklage
Lucas Brill
Vishnawi Budati
Thomas Burtone
Emily Byun
Nicole Campos *
Edison Cheng
Kamil Ciemierkiewicz
Sean Culleton
Ozara Dalgo
Kaisha Dufresne
Lodie Elmarry
Samuel Fakeh
Tatiana Florexil
Jennifer Garcia
Eric Garzillo
Jackson George
Steven Ghobrial
Alexandra Goodwin
Felipe Grajales
Snigda Gupta *
Christopher Hasenkopf *
Rashmi Hazarika
Selvia Hennes
Erica Hilado
Alyssa Hong
Tiffany Hu
Sean Jaeger
Lyndon Johnston
Earman Kaddour
Shubhan Kannepalii
Blayne Keenan
Zara Khan
Seoyeon Kim
Christopher Knight
Alyssa Laurenciana
Aalayah Lavender
Bryant Loaiza
Dominic Lombardi
Jaileen Lorenzo
Tyler MacEwen
Litzy Martinez-Ruiz
Freddy Maya
Seth Medina
Fransiel Melo Tejeda
Akash Mishra
John Mossawir
Angelina Mota
Layla Neira
Ankita Nelakonda
Kevin Nguyen
Najalee Nunez
Julia Okon
Juan Ordonez
Daniella Passarelli
Brylene Persons
Estefany Pitti
Abigail Prall
Nia Quigley
Mulaika Qureshi
Heather-Anne Rabanes
Zachary Radler
Krsto Radulovic
Valeria Ramirez-Salcedo
Faith Ramos
Waldy Rodriguez
Gregory Rovinsky
Sohaib Safri
Maegan Santos
Amir Shad
Dhwani Shah *
Nadeen Sharabi
Shaden Shejaeya
Deepkamel Singh
Jaxon Smit
Elizabeth Stoganenko *
Damian Summers
Jacob Swanson *
Cheann Takii
Acewin Tam *
Jay Thaker
Tejas Thool
William Totten *
Kathy Trinh
Kanishka Tyagi
Francesca Mae Valdez-Tan
Angelica Valinoti
Gabriella Verdejo
Maureen Waweru
Adam Wierzgala
Nolan Wollmer
Chloe Yang
Nicholas Zanghi
The College of Science and Liberal Arts is identified by a lamp, another medieval symbol, commonly seen as a source of intellectual, moral and spiritual illumination. The white and gold of the banner encompasses both arts and letters and theoretic and applied aspects of science. The college was organized as a degree-granting entity in 1982.
The American eagle in flight is the pictorial representation of the School of Management, symbolizing vision, control and integrity. Often depicted on coinage and currency, the eagle enjoys a historical tie to business and management and is shown against light brown, the academic color of its discipline. The school was founded in 1988.

Albert Dorman Honors College
Albert Dorman Honors College, represented by a scroll, was established in 1993. The college aims to inspire and prepare NJIT Honors Scholars to succeed through the highest standards of personal and academic achievement.
The College of Computing is represented as a circle of five segments symbolizing computing as an academic discipline that connects and enriches all disciplines. The light blue background signifies computing as a distinct discipline in its own right, while the colors in the circle represent the other academic disciplines. The college opened its doors in 2001.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Levshteyn *</td>
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As of September 3, 2020
Alma Mater

To Alma Mater fair and great
our voices now we raise
our gratitude we demonstrate
your steady voice we praise
your challenge on us never fails
a world of knowledge calls
in heart and mind our trust we’ll bind
to our NJIT

We’ll hold your memory ever dear
your spirit we’ll revere
to you we’ll promise loyalty
our own NJIT
The New Jersey Institute of Technology that we know today has a rich history with its beginnings developing from the industrial age. Like many of the port cities around the world, the Newark of the late 19th century was a thriving industrial center. Its factories churned out thread, metals, paints and leather goods. In Newark, Thomas Edison set the stage at his Ward Street factory for his later astounding achievements, and Edison rival Edward Weston established the first factory in the United States for commercial production of dynamo electric machines.

On March 24, 1880, the Essex County Assemblyman in the state Legislature introduced “An Act to Provide for the Establishment of Schools of Industrial Education.” The Newark Board of Trade sponsored the bill. The Act established three schools of industrial education: one in Newark, one in Trenton and one in Hoboken. The first Board of Trustees met July 1, 1884. The Newark Technical School opened Monday, February 9, 1885 with 88 students who attended despite a terrible snowstorm.

The first class, mostly evening students, attended classes in a rented building at 21 West Park Street. Soon the facility became inadequate to house an expanding student body. To meet the needs of the growing school, a second fundraiser — the institution’s first capital campaign — was launched to support the construction of a dedicated building for Newark Technical School. In 1886, under the leadership of the school’s dynamic first director, Dr. Charles A. Colton, the cornerstone was laid at the intersection of High Street and Summit Place for the three-story building later to be named Weston Hall in honor of the institution’s early benefactor. A laboratory building, later to be called Colton Hall, was added to the campus in 1913. Daniel Hodgdon served as the director of Newark Technical School from 1918 to 1920.

Under Dr. Allan R. Cullimore, who led the institution from 1920 to 1949, the modest Newark Technical School was transformed into the robust Newark College of Engineering. Campbell Hall was erected in 1925. During the lean years of the Depression and World War II, only the former Newark Orphan Asylum, now Eberhardt Hall, was purchased and renovated by the college.

The postwar period was one of enormous activity during which President Cullimore — like today’s post-Cold War university presidents — challenged the college to turn “wartime thinking into peace-time thinking.”

In 1946, about 75 percent of the freshman class had served in the armed forces. Robert W. Van Houten was acting president of NJIT from 1947 until 1950 when the board of trustees named him president. Cullimore Hall was built in 1958 and two years later the old Weston Hall was razed and replaced with the current seven-story structure. Doctoral-level programs were introduced and six years later, in 1966, an 18-acre, four-building expansion was completed. William Hazell succeeded Dr. Van Houten as president of NJIT in 1970.

In 1973, with the addition of the New Jersey School of Architecture, the institution had evolved into a technological university, emphasizing a broad range of graduate and undergraduate degrees and dedication to significant research and public service. A stronger-than-ever Newark College of Engineering remained intact, but a new university name — New Jersey Institute of Technology — signified the institution’s expanded mission.

A broadened mission called for the creation of a residential campus. The opening of NJIT’s first dormitory, Redwood Hall, in 1979 began a period of steady growth that continues today. Under the leadership of Saul K. Fenster, who served as president of NJIT from 1978 to 2002, four new schools were established at the university: the College of Science and Liberal
Arts in 1982; 1982; the School of Management in 1988; Albert Dorman Honors College in 1995; and the College of Computing Sciences in 2001. During the administration of Robert A. Altenkirch, New Jersey School of Architecture was reconstituted as the College of Architecture and Design in 2008.

Under the leadership of Joel S. Bloom, NJIT completed the first phase of the Gateway Project in 2013, including the creation of Warren Street Village, a three-acre, mixed-use residential housing complex that added 600 beds to NJIT’s existing inventory of residential housing. The complex includes the Honors College Residence Hall and five duplex homes for NJIT’s Greek organizations, as well as dining services, a convenience store and fitness center for the university community.

On April 13, 2017, more than 200 students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university witnessed the official ribbon cutting of the renovated Central King Building, part of a campus transformation designed to enhance the student experience and solidify NJIT’s position going forward as one of the nation’s leading public polytechnic universities. On November 10, 2017, NJIT cut the ribbon for the 220,000-square-foot Wellness and Events Center.

NJIT Today

As New Jersey’s public polytechnic university, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) has earned a reputation as one of the nation’s pre-eminent STEM-focused educational and research institutions. The university consistently is ranked among the highest in the United States for return on investment (ROI) for its graduates and ranks No. 1 nationally for student upward economic mobility, according to Forbes. NJIT’s economic impact on the State of New Jersey exceeds $2.8 billion each year, supporting more than 17,370 jobs and generating employment income of $956 million.

NJIT recently earned the distinction of being designated an “R1” research university by the Carnegie Classification®, which indicates the highest level of research activity. NJIT is one of only 131 universities nationally and just three in New Jersey to achieve this recognition.

With six colleges, 50 undergraduate degree programs, 68 graduate degree programs (including 20 programs leading to a Ph.D. degree in a professional discipline), and over 100 specialized laboratories and research centers, NJIT is home to more than 11,000 students and over 440 full-time and over 400 adjunct faculty members. The university maintains a student-to-faculty ratio of 16 to 1. Almost all of NJIT’s faculty hold the highest degree in their respective fields.
NJIT is a driving force behind a large number of technology- and innovation-based enterprises, as well as a wide range of business and industry public-private partnerships that have a significant impact on the economies of the state and the region. NJIT’s New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII) was established in 2014 to work directly with business, industry and government for economic development. Now in its sixth year of operation, NJII conducts more than $80 million in economic development activities annually. NJIT also is home to VentureLink, a business incubator and accelerator. NJIT currently has 222 unexpired U.S. patents, 24 pending U.S. non-provisional applications, eight international (PCT) applications and 23 provisional applications, one of which is under conversion to a non-provisional application.

On July 1, 2015, NJIT introduced its 2020 Vision–A Strategic Plan to chart the university’s course during the second decade of the 21st century. It is the product of diverse perspectives, an exceptional breadth of talent and deep concern for all aspects of the university’s mission. The five core strategic priorities are:

1. **Students** – To support and increase the number of high-achieving students who graduate

2. **Learning** – To provide a challenging, hands-on and relevant curriculum

3. **Scholarly Research** – A commitment to national and international preeminence and industry engagement (New Jersey Innovation Institute)

4. **Community** – To engage locally, regionally and globally

5. **Investments** – To fund a complete spectrum of resources including human, capital and physical infrastructure

Following ongoing assessment of its programs, NJIT announced its next strategic plan on June 30, 2020. The plan, Building on a Strong Foundation—NJIT 2025, includes revised vision, mission and core values that build on the successes of 2020 Vision and were developed with the participation of the entire NJIT community. Visit njit.edu/strategicplan/njit-2025 to learn more.

NJIT’s commitment to its students ensures that they have a full spectrum of the highest-quality educational, social and infrastructural resources necessary to be successful both in and outside of the classroom. For this reason, the university continues to deliver on its program of faculty renewal and capital investment aimed at meeting the needs of our growing student population and at giving students the edge they need in today’s demanding high-tech marketplace.

NJIT also makes significant contributions to the community through initiatives such as its $1 billion Campus Gateway neighborhood redevelopment plan. Phase 1 was launched on April 25, 2018, which is helping to revitalize a 22-acre area adjacent to the university’s campus. NJIT also supports the community through its annual Day of Service, Alternative Spring Break and numerous other community engagement service offerings that benefit the City of Newark and the State of New Jersey. This year, 3,704 students contributed 67,032 hours at 310 nonprofit agencies, communities and schools.